

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

**GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT**  
(Acre)  
**CODE 548**

**SPECIFICATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT 548:**

Application of Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment 548 shall adhere to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Standard in the Field Office Technical Guide.

1. A treatment plan shall include the following information:
  - Location - Field Numbers, and Map or Sketch of areas planted and areas excluded.
  - Acres and how determined.
  - Date practice applied.
  - Method of treatment.
  - Spacing, area and depth if pitted.
  - Spacing, width and depth if furrowed or chiseled.
  - Depth of tillage and percent of vegetation destroyed if disked or other renovation method is used.
  - Protection provided during establishment period.
  - Other useful comments.
  - Date and signature.
2. On rangeland, grazed forest, and native pasture, the area will have complete protection from grazing by domestic livestock from the date of treatment until early seed maturity of the key forage species during the first year and from green-up to early seed maturity of the key forage species the following year. If treated areas are included within a prescribed grazing system that ensures adequate periods of rest and moderate utilization rates to improve plant vigor, then no season-long deferment is required.
3. In general, at least one key rhizomatous forage plant per square yard must exist over the majority of the area to be treated.
4. Mechanical treatments shall not interfere with trafficability, such as emergency fire lanes, stock loafing and trailing areas, etc. However, this practice can be used to control unwanted vehicular traffic.
5. Clip weeds or apply herbicides, if necessary, to control competing or undesirable vegetation. Refer to "Pest Management" (595) conservation practice standard, section IV, FOTG.
6. Compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including permits, permissions, or notifications is required.

**Additional Specifications Applicable to Contour Furrowing.**

1. Furrows will be constructed on the approximate contour. Natural dams to control erosion, will be left within each furrow by lifting the machine out of the ground for a short distance at random intervals, not to exceed 300 feet.
2. Depth of furrows will be from 3 to 6 inches.
3. Furrows must be at least 6 inches and not more than 30 inches wide.
4. Spacing between furrows will not exceed 4 feet.

**Additional Specifications Applicable to Pitting.**

1. Pits will be approximately 16 inches apart and not less than 3 inches deep.

**Additional Specifications Applicable to Chiseling.**

1. Depth of treatment will be from 3 to 6 inches deep.
2. Distance between chisels shall not exceed 18 inch centers. (Centers from 12 to 14 inches are preferred.)

**Additional Specifications Applicable to Disking or other Renovation.**

Operations will be on the approximate contour. Where vegetative composition is the problem:

1. Depth of treatment will be from 3 to 6 inches.
2. At least 50 percent of the existing vegetation will be destroyed.

Where moisture penetration is the problem:

1. Depth of treatment will be from 9 to 18 inches.
2. Distance between rippings will not exceed 4 feet.